

MAJOR GENERAL VERNON A. WALTERS

Vernon A. Walters was born in New York City on 3 January 1917. He lived abroad with his parents and attended St Louis Gonzaga School in Paris, France, and Stonyhurst College in England.

His military career began on 2 May 1941 when he entered the Army as an enlisted man. His first assignment was with the 187th Field Artillery at Fort Ethon Allen, Vermont. In early 1942 he attended the Officers Candidate School at Ft Benning, Georgia, and graduated as a 2d Lt of Infantry on 29 May 1942. He was assigned to the 85th Division as platoon leader of the Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon of Hqs Co. 338th Infantry. Subsequently, he was given additional duty of Regimental S-2.

Late in 1942, he was assigned to Camp Ritchie, Maryland and went overseas with the 9th Infantry Division, taking part in the assault landing at Safi in Morocco on 8 November 1942. For his part in this action, he was awarded the Legion of Merit and promoted to 1st Lt. After serving in Algeria and Tunisia, he returned to the United States as Chief of Section at the Intelligence School at Camp Ritchie. While serving there, he attended the Special Course for Brazilian Officers at the Command and General Staff School at Ft Leavenworth in 1943. Subsequently, he returned to Italy, serving as aide to General Mark W. Clark, Commanding General of the Fifth Army. Upon the arrival of the Brazilian Expeditionary Force in Italy, Captain Walters was assigned as Combat Liaison Officer with the 1st Brazilian Infantry Division remaining with them until the end of the war. He was then assigned as Assistant Army Attache in Brazil. He served there from 1945 to 1948.

During the visits of President Truman, General Marshall and General Eisenhower, he served as aide to interpret for them. In April 1948, he went to the 9th Pan American Conference at Bogota as aide to General Marshall, then Secretary of State. During this conference, a revolt occurred in which Fidel Castro was involved. For his work at Bogota, Lt Col Walters received the Army Commendation Ribbon. In June 1948, he was assigned to Ambassador Averell Harriman as Assistant Military Attache-at-Large with station in Paris, and in 1949 he was appointed Army Attache-at-Large. Returning to the United States with Ambassador Harriman in June 1950, he became Military Assistant to the Special Assistant to the President. At this time, he accompanied

Governor Harriman to Korea and to the meeting between President Truman and General MacArthur at Wake Island. In January 1951, he accompanied General Eisenhower on his visit to twelve NATO countries, and in February 1951 he was assigned to SHAPE Headquarters in Paris.

He served there as Assistant Executive for National Military Representatives, and subsequently as Assistant to the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics and Administration. He also served as Assistant to the President at the Geneva Conference in 1953. Returning to the United States in January 1955, he was assigned to the U. S. Element of the NATO Standing Group as Public Information Officer and Special Projects Officer. During this period, he had additional duties as Staff Assistant to the President of the United States, accompanying General Eisenhower on all of his foreign trips. He attended courses at Fort Bliss, Texas, and Sandia Base, New Mexico, and in May 1960 was ordered to Rome, Italy, as Army Attache, serving there until October 1962, when he was assigned to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, as Army Attache, the post he held until May 1967. Subsequently, he performed temporary duty in Vietnam before reporting to his next assignment as Defense Attache in Paris, where he was stationed from July 1967 to March 1972.

PERSONAL DATA

Born: 3 January 1917, New York City
Father: Frederick J. Walters (deceased)
Mother: Laura P. Walters (deceased)

General Walters is unmarried.

Official Address: c/o The Adjutant General, Department of the
Army, Washington, D. C. 20025

CHRONOLOGICAL LIST OF PROMOTIONS

2d Lt	29 May 1942
1st Lt	30 Dec 1942
Capt	20 Apr 1943
Major	30 Sep 1944
Lt Col	3 Nov 1950
Col	25 Apr 1960
Brig Gen	1 Feb 1965
Maj Gen	1 Feb 1968

CITATIONS AND DECORATIONS

Distinguished Service Medal
Legion of Merit (with Oak Leaf Cluster)
Bronze Star Medal
Air Medal
Army Commendation Medal (with Oak Leaf Cluster)

SERVICE MEDALS

American Defense Service Medal
American Campaign Medal
European Theatre Medal
World War II Victory Medal
Army Occupation Medal (Germany)
National Defense Service Medal
Vietnam Campaign Medal

FOREIGN DECORATIONS

France: Officer of the Legion of Honor
Croix de Guerre with Palms

Brazil: Combat Cross
Order of Military Merit
War Medal
Campaign Cross
Southern Cross

Italy: - Bronze Medal of Valor
Commander of the Crown of Italy
Commander of Order of Merit of Italian Republic

Peru: Grand Cross of Order of Merit

Portugal: Military Merit

Spain: Military Merit

BADGES

DOD, White House

PERSONAL BACKGROUND MATERIAL

General Walters is interested in languages and history. He speaks French, German, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Dutch and Russian. He enjoys swimming, skiing and chess.

RELIGION

Roman Catholic